

Regional Contribution to India's Economic Growth: A State-wise Analysis of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

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Abstract—Regional disparities in economic development remain a significant concern in India despite sustained national economic growth. The present study examines the contribution of different regions of India—North, South, East, and West—to the national economy using Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) data for the financial year 2024–25. The study aims to compare the economic performance of these regions, identify regional disparities, and assess the contribution of major states to regional economic growth. The research is based on secondary data collected from reliable sources such as the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), state economic surveys, and other government publications. A descriptive and comparative research design has been adopted for the study. Statistical tools such as tabulation, percentage analysis, ranking, and regional comparison have been employed to analyse the data. The findings reveal that South India is the largest contributor to the national economy, followed by West India and North India, while East India contributes the least among the regions examined. The study highlights significant regional imbalances in economic performance, with economic activities being concentrated in a few highly developed states. Differences in industrialization, infrastructure development, investment levels, and economic diversification have been identified as major factors influencing regional economic contribution. The study concludes that balanced regional development is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth in India. It recommends greater investment in infrastructure, industrial expansion, entrepreneurship development, and human capital formation in relatively underperforming regions to reduce economic disparities and strengthen overall national growth.

Index Terms—Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Regional Disparities, Economic Growth, Indian States, Regional Contribution.

I. Introduction

Regional analysis of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is central to understanding how different states contribute to India's overall economic growth and why large regional imbalances persist. Studies on post-reform India show significant inter-state variation in per capita GSDP and Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), with faster-growing states pulling ahead and widening inequality over time (Radhakrishna & Mishra, 2020; Ghosh et al., 2023; Ahluwalia, 2002; Kumar et al., 2020). Decomposition analyses indicate that growth has become increasingly driven by the secondary and especially tertiary sectors, while the primary sector's relative role has declined, both at the all-India level and within individual states such as Rajasthan and the North-Eastern region (Singh, 2018; Kumar, 2015; Jain & Bhardwaj, 2025). Sectoral patterns differ sharply between richer and poorer states: high-income states tend to exhibit service-led growth, whereas in low-income states industrial expansion is the main significant driver and agriculture often contributes little to NDP growth (Panancheri & A, 2025; Kumar, 2015). Regional studies for North-Eastern and "Seven Sister" states document slower GSDP/NSDP growth than the national average and only weak convergence, highlighting

persistent disparities within India's federal structure (Singh, 2018; Kumar, 2015). At the same time, state-level growth is closely linked to fiscal capacity, infrastructure, and financial development, with evidence that tax structures, GST buoyancy, government expenditure, and regional financial deepening all shape NSDP/GSDP dynamics across states (Sumandeep et al., 2024; Sharma & Bardhan, 2017; Misra, 2022; Kumar et al., 2020; Dandona, 2025). These patterns have direct implications for poverty reduction, employment, and multidimensional well-being, as higher GSDP growth is often accompanied by better social outcomes, though not uniformly across regions (Radhakrishna & Mishra, 2020; Gupta, 2025; Kaur & Singh, 2025). A state-wise GSDP analysis thus provides a crucial empirical lens for assessing regional contributions to India's aggregate growth and for designing region-specific policies aimed at balanced and inclusive development (Panancheri & A, 2025; Singh, 2018; Radhakrishna & Mishra, 2020; Ghosh et al., 2023; Ahluwalia, 2002; Kumar et al., 2020; Jain & Bhardwaj, 2025; Dandona, 2025).

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Barkha & Banday, 2020) decompose Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) across 17 major states from 1991–92 to 2016–17 and show that India's high post-reform per capita income growth is accompanied by a major structural shift, with the tertiary sector becoming the main growth driver (Barkha & Banday, 2020). Inequality within primary and tertiary sectors fell, but rose in the secondary sector; yet, overall, secondary and tertiary activities contribute most to widening inter-state income inequality, while the primary sector slightly offsets disparities. (Ghosh et al., 2023) construct state-wise capital and labour series (2000–2017) to decompose growth and find beta divergence in per capita SDP, but not in capital accumulation, implying that differences in TFP growth and exposure to a common national growth factor, rather than capital alone, drive rising state inequality.

(Kumar, 2015) analyses per capita GSDP in the Seven Sister states (Northeast) in the 2000s and finds weak conditional convergence but overall widening dispersion: the coefficient of variation in per capita GSDP rises from 0.0114 (1999/00) to 0.0172 (2010/11), even as group-wise NSDP variation falls, and agriculture growth shows no significant link to per capita GSDP growth.

(Kumar et al., 2020) examine six Indian regions (1991–2018) and find very high inequality in regional per capita income ($Gini \approx 0.75$), with southern states leading NSDP growth (18.6%) due to strong industrialization, especially in Tamil Nadu, while the Northeast lags with only 9.1% growth, underscoring persistent macro-level regional disparities.

(Ghosh & Kaustubh, 2025) and show “conditional” convergence in per capita GSDP masks rising inequality driven by both different steady states and productivity growth gaps; population growth, bank credit/GDP, and sectoral composition explain steady-state differences, suggesting policy rebalancing in low-income states.

(Rao & Rao, 2006) document increasing interstate disparities in GSDP in the post-reform era, attributing much of the divergence to uneven performance of secondary and tertiary sectors, and argue for higher public investment and better social-economic infrastructure in backward regions, along with governance reforms, to curb these gaps.

(Shergill & Arora, 2023) track registered manufacturing in 16 states (1980–81 to 2015–16) and find no convergence in manufacturing: σ -convergence and β -convergence tests mostly show divergence in gross output per capita, with changing rankings (e.g., Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh improving, Maharashtra and Bihar slipping), but little systematic coastal/non-coastal or north/south pattern.

(Dutta & Barman, 2022) analyse per capita services NSDP across 25 states (1995–2020) using parametric and non-parametric methods and find divergence in services incomes across states, with only some evidence of convergence in the first decade, reflecting the concentration of fast-growing service segments in a few states.

(Singh, 2018) highlights regional disparity in income, poverty, investment and per capita NSDP among eight North-Eastern states, showing overall GSDP/NSDP growth below the national average (2004–05 to 2010–11), though Sikkim and Mizoram record very high growth and a rising tertiary-sector share, implying an uneven but ongoing structural shift.

(Kumar et al., 2026) argue that top-down GSDP allocation masks intra-state heterogeneity, showing via a Uttar Pradesh pilot that unincorporated manufacturing GVA is underestimated by 57–148%; they propose bottom-up District Domestic Product estimates to capture local growth patterns and guide more equitable, regionally sensitive planning.

(Panancheri & A, 2025) uses panel data (2011–12 to 2023–24) for 28 states to show that low-income states exhibit industry-led NDP growth with weak agriculture and underdeveloped services, while high-income states follow a services-led pattern plus significant industry and some agriculture, reinforcing structural dualism and the need for region-specific sectoral strategies.

(Jain & Bhardwaj, 2025) analyse Rajasthan's GSDP (1993–2023) via VECM and cointegration, finding a long-run relationship among sectors, a post-2016 break with sustained tertiary-sector expansion, strong secondary-sector contribution, and a declining primary share, with notable inter-sectoral dependencies shaping the state's growth trajectory.

(Masarguppi & Karne, 2015) develop a Composite Index of Economic Growth for 19 states (2007–08) using multi-stage PCA over agriculture, industry, services and infrastructure variables, and show significant inter-state disparity, recommending that laggard states identify and build a “lead sector” as an engine to pull overall growth and narrow gaps.

(Ahluwalia, 2002) compares state performance pre- and post-reforms (1991–92 to 1998–99) and finds rising regional inequality in GSDP per capita, with growth differences closely linked to private investment ratios, infrastructure provision and literacy, while public investment and plan expenditure show little direct effect, highlighting the centrality of state-level policy and governance.

(Gupta, 2025) relates regional economic growth (2018–2023) to SDG 8, finding that industrialized states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra, with robust services and industry, outperform in GDP and formal employment, whereas Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha suffer from low investment and industrialization, high informality and weaker female labour participation, reinforcing spatial labour-market dualism.

(Sumandeep et al., 2024) estimate panel GMM, FMOLS and DOLS models for 17 states (1990–2020) and find that non-tax revenue, tax revenue, and both plan and non-plan development expenditure are significantly linked to NSDP and per capita NSDP, implying that faster fiscal-sector expansion and well-designed spending can bolster sustainable state-level growth.

(Radhakrishna & Mishra, 2020) examine post-reform regional growth and find that inter-state disparities in per capita GSDP persist and strongly influence inequality in consumption, multidimensional well-being and nutrition, with states differing markedly in poverty reduction performance, leading to a ranking on a multiple-deprivation index.

Kumar et al. (2022) relate air-pollution-attributed disease burden (APADB) to GSDP and motorization (2011–2019), finding APADB is inversely correlated with GSDP in most states and negatively related to vehicle growth in 19 states; inequality measures show that richer, more urbanized, industrialized states account for over 60% of APADB, revealing a complex growth–environment–health geography.

Vinitha et al. (2023) study 2017–2022 state data and show a generally negative relationship between GSDP and unemployment, though growth and joblessness both fluctuate and Granger causality tests reveal mixed

unidirectional or bidirectional links across states, underscoring that higher GSDP growth does not uniformly or automatically translate into lower unemployment everywhere.

Chandapaka et al. (2025) analyse GST buoyancy (2017–2023) across selected states and find that Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka display high GST buoyancy with tax revenue rising faster than GSDP, while other states see GST growth lag behind economic expansion, indicating improved compliance and transparency overall but persistent inter-state differences in tax-growth responsiveness.

III. RESEARCH GAP

Numerous studies have examined the economic growth and development of individual Indian states and analysed national GDP trends. However, limited research has focused on a comparative assessment of the regional contribution of North, South, East, and West India using recent GSDP data. Most existing studies emphasize state-level performance without providing a comprehensive regional perspective. Furthermore, the changing economic dynamics among regions in recent years have not been adequately explored using the latest available data. Therefore, there exists a gap in understanding the relative contribution of different regions to India's economic growth and the extent of regional disparities in economic performance.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the contribution of different regions of India (North, South, East, and West) to the national economy based on GSDP.
2. To compare the economic performance of the four regions and identify the leading and lagging regions.
3. To analyse regional disparities in economic contribution and growth.
4. To assess the role of major states in influencing the economic performance of their respective regions.
5. To provide suggestions for achieving balanced regional economic development in India.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive and comparative research design to analyse and compare the economic contribution of different regions of India, namely North, South, East, and West, based on their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Sources of Data

The study is based entirely on secondary data collected from reliable sources such as the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), state economic surveys, government publications, and other official statistical reports.

Sample Selection

The study covers 28 Indian states, which are grouped into four regions: North, South, East, and West India. Union Territories have been excluded from the analysis to maintain uniformity and comparability among states.

Variables and Measures

The primary variable used in the study is Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices, measured in ₹ lakh crore. Regional economic contribution is assessed by aggregating the GSDP of states within each region and comparing their relative shares.

Tools of Analysis

The study employs simple statistical tools such as tabulation, percentage analysis, ranking method, regional comparison, and graphical presentation through charts and diagrams. These tools are used to compare the economic contribution of different regions and identify regional disparities.

Period of Study

The study is based on the latest available GSDP data for the financial year 2024–25, providing a contemporary assessment of regional economic contribution to India's growth.

Scope of the Study

The study focuses on examining regional economic performance and contribution to national output through GSDP. It provides insights into regional disparities and highlights the relative economic strength of different regions of India.

VI. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is based entirely on secondary data obtained from published government reports and statistical sources; therefore, its accuracy depends on the reliability of the available data.
- The analysis considers only Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) as a measure of economic contribution and does not include other socio-economic indicators such as employment, poverty, or human development.
- The study is limited to the financial year 2024–25, and therefore does not capture long-term trends or changes in regional economic performance over time.

VII. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

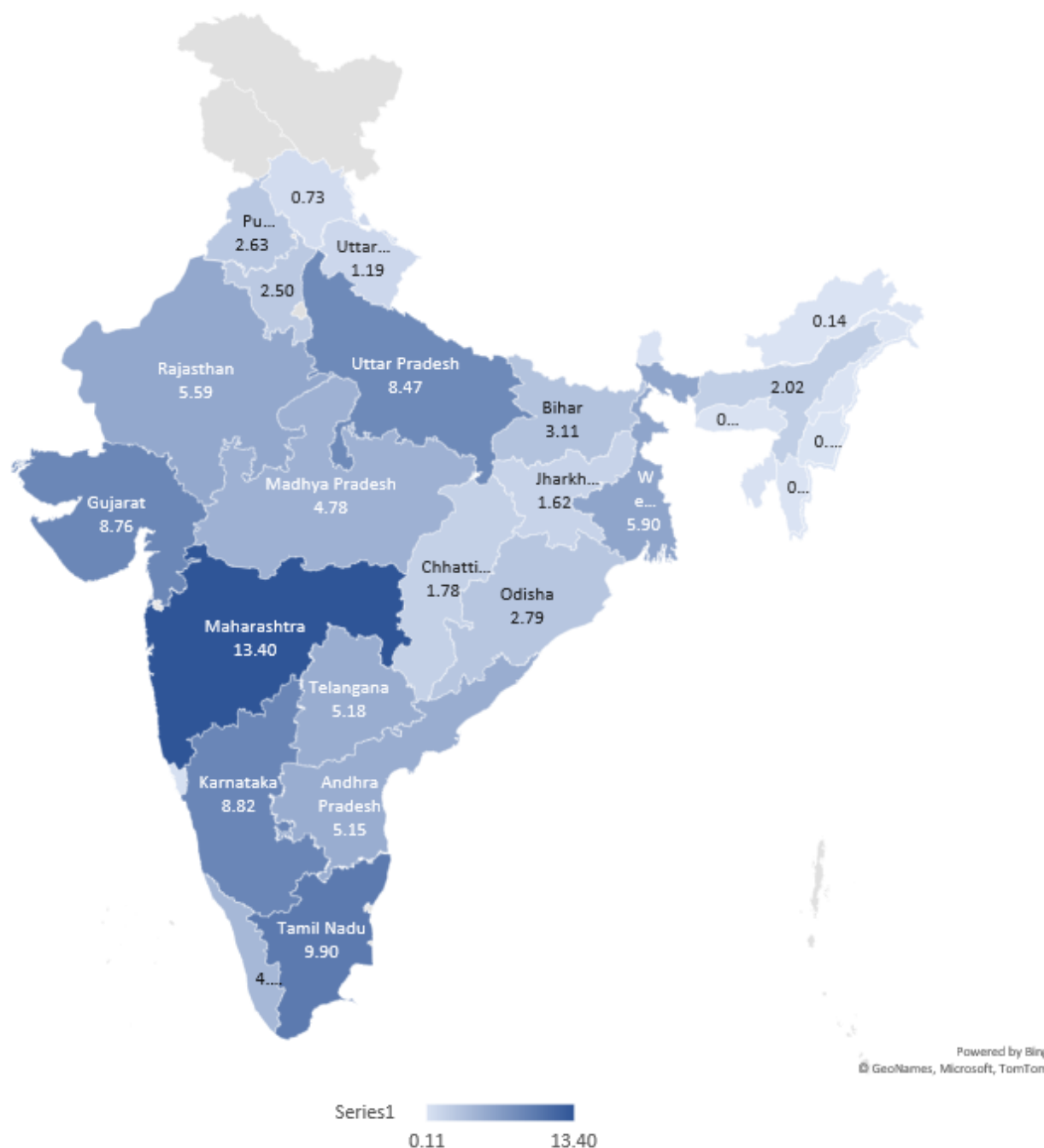
Table-1: Comparative Analysis of state-wise GSDP (2024–25, current prices)

State	GSDP (₹ Lakh Crore)	Approx. Share (%)
Andhra Pradesh	16.41	5.15
Arunachal Pradesh	0.44	0.14
Assam	6.44	2.02
Bihar	9.92	3.11
Chhattisgarh	5.68	1.78
Goa	1.38	0.43
Gujarat	27.90	8.76
Haryana	7.96	2.50

Himachal Pradesh	2.32	0.73
Jharkhand	5.16	1.62
Karnataka	28.09	8.82
Kerala	13.11	4.11
Madhya Pradesh	15.22	4.78
Maharashtra	42.68	13.40
Manipur	0.47	0.15
Meghalaya	0.59	0.19
Mizoram	0.34	0.11
Nagaland	0.40	0.13
Odisha	8.90	2.79
Punjab	8.39	2.63
Rajasthan	17.81	5.59
Sikkim	0.49	0.15
Tamil Nadu	31.55	9.90
Telangana	16.49	5.18
Tripura	0.90	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	26.99	8.47
Uttarakhand	3.78	1.19
West Bengal	18.80	5.90

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), state economic surveys, and official government statistical databases.

Figure 1: State wise GSDP % Contribution 2024-25



The above figure shows a comparative analysis of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) across various Indian states for the financial year 2024–25 at current prices. A prominent takeaway from this data is the massive disparity in economic output among different regions, highlighting the highly concentrated nature of India's economic engine. A handful of highly industrialized and urbanized states clearly drive the lion's share of the aggregate output, while a large number of smaller states, particularly in the northeastern region, contribute marginally to the overall economic footprint. At the apex of this economic distribution stands Maharashtra, firmly establishing itself as the country's economic powerhouse with a GSDP of ₹42.68 Lakh Crore, capturing a massive 13.40% of the total share. Following Maharashtra, a tight cluster of southern and western economic giants heavily influences the numbers. Tamil Nadu secures the second spot with a GSDP

of ₹31.55 Lakh Crore (9.90% share), closely trailed by Karnataka at ₹28.09 Lakh Crore (8.82% share) and Gujarat at ₹27.90 Lakh Crore (8.76% share). Together, just these top four states command over 40% of the economic share represented in the table, emphasizing their critical role in national manufacturing, services, and industrial output. Conversely, the bottom tier of the spectrum consists predominantly of the northeastern states and smaller territories, which display significantly lower GSDP figures. Mizoram sits at the absolute bottom of the listed states with a GSDP of just ₹0.34 Lakh Crore, translating to a meagre 0.11% share. Other northeastern states like Nagaland (₹0.40 Lakh Crore), Arunachal Pradesh (₹0.44 Lakh Crore), Manipur (₹0.47 Lakh Crore), Sikkim (₹0.49 Lakh Crore), and Meghalaya (₹0.59 Lakh Crore) all hover well below a 0.20% share individually. This sharp contrast between the multi-lakh-crore economies of states like Maharashtra and the sub-one-lakh-crore economies of the northeast underscores a deep-rooted regional imbalance that poses ongoing challenges for equitable national development.

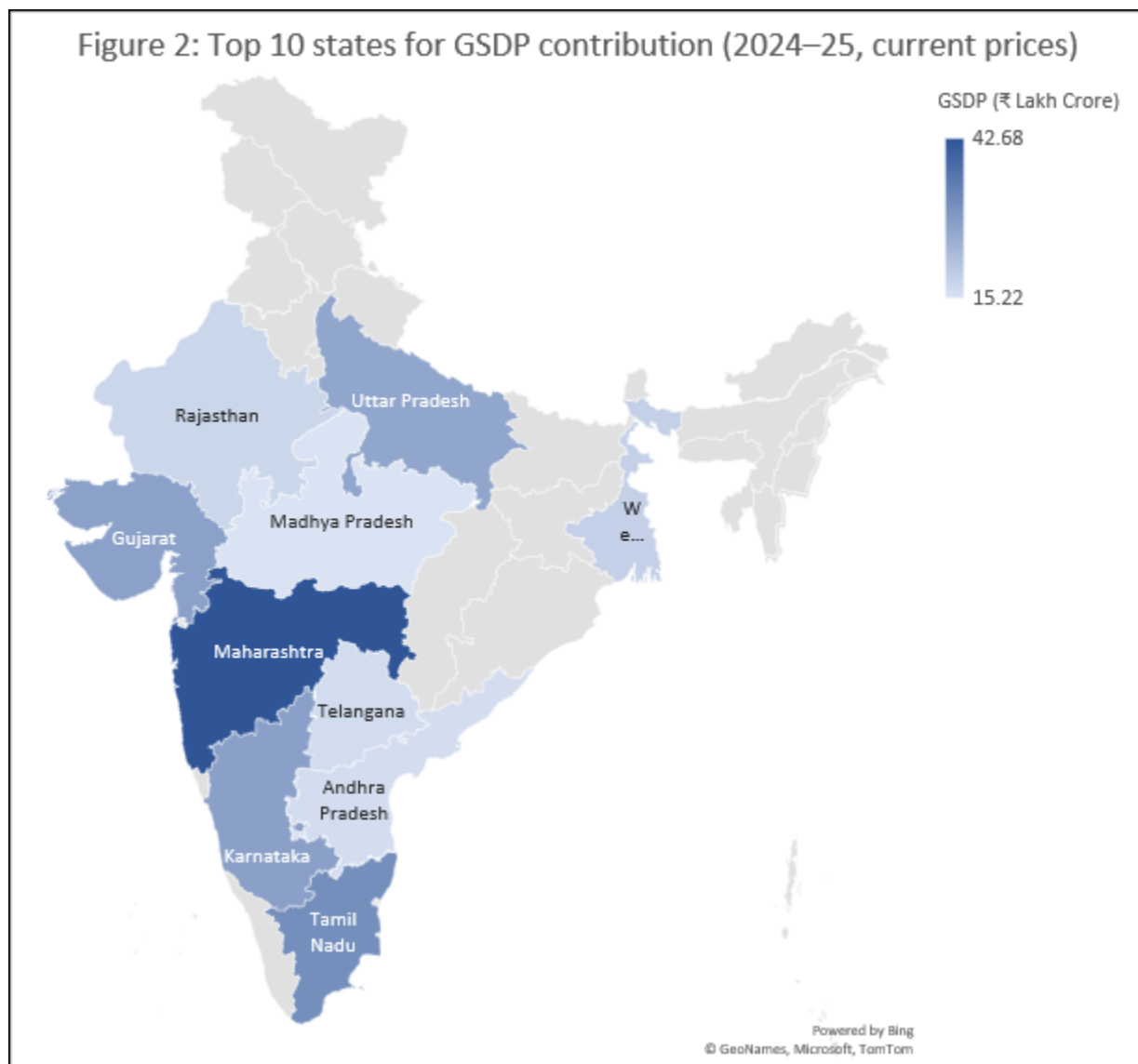
In the middle tier, we observe a diverse mix of large, heavily populated states and highly efficient medium-sized economies. Rajasthan, for instance, maintains a strong presence with a GSDP of ₹17.81 Lakh Crore (5.59% share), while the southern states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are neck-and-neck, posting ₹16.49 Lakh Crore (5.18%) and ₹16.41 Lakh Crore (5.15%) respectively. Interestingly, a densely populated state like Bihar, despite its massive population, reports a GSDP of ₹9.92 Lakh Crore with a 3.11% share, placing it behind smaller but more industrialized counterparts like Kerala, which boasts ₹13.11 Lakh Crore (4.11% share). This middle layer reveals that geographic size or sheer population numbers do not always directly correlate with economic productivity, as industrialization, infrastructure, and regional policies play a far more decisive role in shaping a state's financial output.

Table-2: Comparative Analysis of top 10 states for GSDP contribution (2024–25, current prices)

Rank	State	GSDP (₹ Lakh Crore)
1	Maharashtra	42.68
2	Tamil Nadu	31.55
3	Karnataka	28.09
4	Gujarat	27.90
5	Uttar Pradesh	26.99
6	West Bengal	18.80
7	Rajasthan	17.81
8	Telangana	16.49
9	Andhra Pradesh	16.41
10	Madhya Pradesh	15.22

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), state economic surveys, and official government statistical databases.

Figure 2: Top 10 states for GSDP contribution (2024–25, current prices)

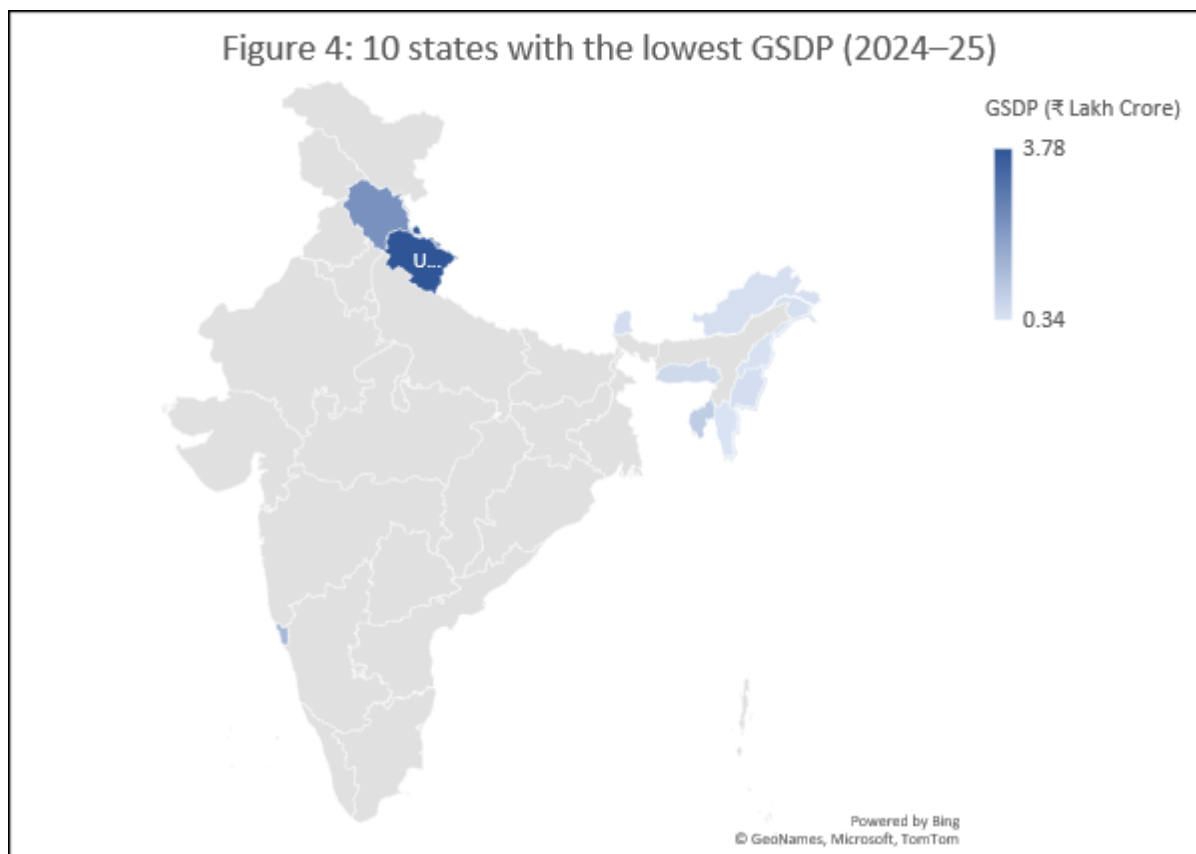


The above figure 2 outlines the top 10 Indian states by Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the financial year 2024–25 at current prices, showcasing a highly concentrated economic structure. Maharashtra firmly leads the nation as the primary economic driver, boasting a massive GSDP of ₹42.68 Lakh Crore. Tamil Nadu follows in second place at ₹31.55 Lakh Crore, while the southern and western industrial hubs of Karnataka (₹28.09 Lakh Crore) and Gujarat (₹27.90 Lakh Crore) claim the third and fourth spots, respectively. Northern and eastern heavyweights also feature prominently, with Uttar Pradesh ranking fifth at ₹26.99 Lakh Crore and West Bengal at ₹18.80 Lakh Crore. The remaining positions are occupied by Rajasthan (₹17.81 Lakh Crore), Telangana (₹16.49 Lakh Crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹16.41 Lakh Crore), and Madhya Pradesh (₹15.22 Lakh Crore). Collectively, these top ten states form the core engine of India's aggregate economic output.

Table-3: Comparative Analysis of 10 states with the lowest GSDP (2024–25)

Rank (from bottom)	State	GSDP (₹ Lakh Crore)
1	Mizoram	0.34
2	Nagaland	0.40
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.44
4	Manipur	0.47
5	Sikkim	0.49
6	Meghalaya	0.59
7	Tripura	0.90
8	Goa	1.38
9	Himachal Pradesh	2.32
10	Uttarakhand	3.78

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), state economic surveys, and official government statistical databases.



The above figure 4 shows a comparative analysis of the ten Indian states with the lowest Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the financial year 2024–25. A striking takeaway from this data is the overwhelming presence of northeastern states, which occupy the top seven slots of this bottom-tier list. This concentration highlights significant regional economic disparities, as difficult terrain, smaller populations, and limited industrialization collectively cap the aggregate fiscal output of these areas compared to the rest of the country.

At the absolute bottom of the list is Mizoram, ranking first from the bottom with a GSDP of just ₹0.34 Lakh Crore. It is followed closely by its northeastern neighbours: Nagaland at ₹0.40 Lakh Crore, Arunachal Pradesh at ₹0.44 Lakh Crore, and Manipur at ₹0.47 Lakh Crore. Sikkim and Meghalaya also register minimal economic outputs at ₹0.49 Lakh Crore and ₹0.59 Lakh Crore, respectively. Tripura represents the final northeastern state in this lower bracket, breaking past the half-lakh-crore mark but remaining low at ₹0.90 Lakh Crore.

Moving slightly higher up the bottom ten, the data features states from other regions that face distinct economic or geographic boundaries. Goa, despite being a prominent tourism hub with high per-capita income, ranks eighth from the bottom with a total GSDP of ₹1.38 Lakh Crore due to its tiny geographic footprint. Finally, the Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh (₹2.32 Lakh Crore) and Uttarakhand (₹3.78 Lakh Crore) round out the bottom ten, proving how hilly terrains can naturally restrict extensive industrial expansion.

VIII. FINDINGS

The analysis of regional GSDP data reveals significant differences in the economic contribution of various regions of India. Among the four regions studied, South India emerged as the largest contributor to the national economy. The strong economic performance of states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana,

Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh has enabled the region to maintain a leading position in terms of economic output. The presence of diversified industries, advanced service sectors, information technology hubs, and better infrastructure has contributed significantly to the region's economic strength.

West India ranked second in terms of economic contribution. The economic dominance of Maharashtra and Gujarat has played a crucial role in driving the region's growth. Maharashtra, being India's largest state economy, and Gujarat, with its strong industrial and manufacturing base, together account for a substantial share of the regional output. The region benefits from major ports, industrial corridors, and a favourable business environment that attracts domestic and foreign investment.

North India secured the third position in the regional ranking. The economic performance of the region is largely influenced by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, which contribute significantly to its total GSDP. Although the region possesses a large consumer market and abundant human resources, variations in industrial development and infrastructure among the states have limited its overall economic contribution compared to the leading regions.

East India recorded the lowest contribution among the four regions despite having a substantial population base and rich natural resources. States such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal contribute to the region's economy; however, lower levels of industrialization, infrastructure constraints, and slower economic diversification have restricted the region's overall performance. The findings indicate the existence of considerable regional disparities in economic development across India.

IX. SUGGESTIONS

The government should formulate policies aimed at reducing regional economic disparities by promoting balanced development across all regions. Special attention should be given to economically weaker regions through targeted investments in infrastructure, industrial development, and public services. Such initiatives can enhance economic opportunities and improve the overall productivity of lagging states.

Investment in transportation networks, digital infrastructure, logistics facilities, and connectivity should be prioritized in lower-performing regions. Improved infrastructure can attract businesses, reduce operational costs, and facilitate greater economic integration with national and international markets. This would contribute to higher levels of economic activity and regional competitiveness.

State governments should actively encourage industrial diversification and entrepreneurship through investor-friendly policies, tax incentives, and support for small and medium enterprises. Expanding industrial activities beyond traditional sectors can generate employment opportunities and stimulate sustainable economic growth in less-developed areas.

Skill development and human capital enhancement programs should be strengthened to improve workforce productivity. Investments in education, vocational training, and technological capabilities can help states build a competitive labour force capable of supporting modern industries and services. This would contribute to long-term economic development and inclusive growth.

X. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that significant regional disparities exist in the economic contribution of Indian states. South India emerged as the leading contributor to national economic output, followed by West India and North India, while East India recorded the lowest contribution among the regions examined. The findings

demonstrate that economic growth in India is concentrated in a few highly developed states that possess strong industrial, service, and infrastructure bases. The analysis further indicates that differences in investment levels, industrialization, infrastructure development, and economic diversification have a substantial impact on regional economic performance. Regions with advanced economic ecosystems have been able to achieve higher levels of growth and productivity, whereas regions with structural and developmental challenges continue to lag behind.

Therefore, achieving balanced and inclusive economic growth requires coordinated efforts by both central and state governments. Greater investments in infrastructure, industrial development, entrepreneurship promotion, and human capital formation are essential for reducing regional inequalities. A more balanced regional growth pattern will not only strengthen individual state economies but also enhance the overall resilience, sustainability, and long-term growth potential of the Indian economy.

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